

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 250949Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4779

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 6269

EXDIS

FOR UNDERSECRETARY SISCO, ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ATHERTON, DIRECTOR VEST FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO US OF STAFF AND FACULTY
TEAM FROM NASSER ACADEMY OF HIGHER LEARNING

REF: USDAO CAIRO 250945Z JUNE 75

1. AS YOU WILL NOTE FROM REFTEL, WE HAVE HAD A REQUEST FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE NASSER ACADEMY OF HIGHER LEARNING, WHICH IS THE EGYPTIAN EQUIVALENT TO OUR NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE, THAT APPROVAL BE GIVEN FOR A GROUP OF NINE STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY TO VISIT COUNTERPART SENIOR MILITARY SCHOOLS IN THE US IN JULY OR AUGUST OF THIS YEAR. ALL OF THE TEAM WOULD BE GENERAL OR FLAG RANK OFFICERS. THE ACADEMY HAS RECETNLY GOTTEN RID OF ALL OF ITS SOVIET INSTRUCTORS AND ITS COMMANDANT IS ANXIOUS TO BROADEN THE SCHOOLS'S CONTACTS AND LEARN NEW TECHNIQUES. HE BELIEVES THAT EXPOSURE TO THE NWC, ICAF AND SOME OF THE SENIOR SERVICE WAR COLLEGES WOULD BE BENEFICIAL IN ASSISTING THE ACADEMY TO RESTRUCTURE ITS CURRICULUM.

2. I BELIEVE SUCH A VISIT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.
AS YOU KNOW, GOE -- AND SPECIFICALLY THE NASSER
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ACADEMY -- HAS FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS AGAIN HOSTED

OUR ANNUAL NWC AND ICAF VISITING GROUPS. DURING NWC COMMANDANT ADMIRAL BAYNES' VISIT OF LAST YEAR, HE OFFERED TO BE OF ALL APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE TO THE NASSER ACADEMY IN ITS CURRICULUM FORMULATION. SUCH A VISIT, THEREFORE, WOULD ALLOW US TO RECEPROATE SOME OF THE HOSPITALITY OUR GROUPS HAVE BEEN GIVEN AND WHICH WE HOPE WILL CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN.

3. APART FOR THE RECIPROCITY ASPECT, I AM INTRIGUED WITH THE IDEA THAT SOME OF THESE EGYPTIAN AND FLAG RANK OFFICERS ARE AGAIN INTERESTED IN HAVING ASSOCIATION WITH THE US. AS I HAVE OFTEN POINTED OUT TO CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS, A GENERATION OF EGYPTIAN GENERAL AND FLAG RANK OFFICERS HAS GROWN UP WITHOUT ANY EXPOSURE WHATSOEVER TO US MILITARY SCHOOLS OR COUNTERPARTS. TODAY ONLY THE OLDER GENERAL AND FLAG RANK OFFICERS, ON THE VERGE OF RETIREMENT, HAVE HAD THAT EXPERIENCE. IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO REDRESS THIS SITUATION AND THE PROPOSED VISIT IS A STEP IN THAT DIRECTION. IT FITS, MOREOVER, INTO THE CONCEPT OF TRAINING ASSISTANCE, WHICH WE HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO GIVE TO THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY.

4. ALTHOUGH THE ACTION IS WITH DOD, THE SUBJECT IS ONE ON WHICH STATE APPROVAL WILL DOUBTLESS HAVE TO BE SOUGHT. FOR THE REASONS GIVEN ABOVE I URGE THAT APPROVAL BE GIVEN. WE COULD, IF WE WISH, ASK THE TEAM TO WEAR CIVILIAN ATTIRE WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE PRACTICE FOLLOWED BY OUR VISITING NWC AND ICAF GROUPS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, TEACHERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO06269
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750220-0555
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750614/aaaaamuz.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 USDAO CAIRO 250945Z, 75 JUNE 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <23 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED VISIT TO US OF STAFF AND FACULTY TEAM FROM NASSER ACADEMY OF HIGHER LEARNING
TAGS: PFOR, EG, US, NASSER ACADEMY OF HIGHER LEARNING
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006